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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Today, the Mission of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations received disturbing information from the Command of the 2nd Army Corps of the Territorial Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Tuzla region, regarding intensified aggression by Serbian and Montenegrin extremist forces.

On 7 February 1993, the aggressor forces employed Howitzer cannons, anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, mortars, and multi-barreled rocket launchers from the ground, and both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft which launched napalm and cluster bombs in attacks against the towns of Cerska, Konjevic Polje, and Kamenica. These latest attacks resulted in excess of 100 casualties and an influx of 4,000-plus refugees from these towns into the already overburdened city of Tuzla. These refugees reported that, given the continued attacks and the deteriorating situation, that another 5,000 refugees from the above-mentioned towns could be expected to arrive in Tuzla over the next two to three days.

Serbian and Montenegrin forces also launched a renewed offensive against the town of Bosanski Posovina in another blatant attempt to establish a corridor linking the Republic of Serbia to Serbian extremist held territory in the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Furthermore, Serbian and Montenegrin extremist forces have not allowed humanitarian aid to reach the besieged town of Zepa, and as a result, 25 people, 9 of them children, perished from hunger on 7 February.

In response to the renewed aggression, and in light of the absence of international protection or a means for self-defence, the Command of the 2nd Army Corps of the Territorial Defense of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has stated that its only remaining option in deterring the aggressor forces is to position chlorine-filled railroad tankers within range of the artillery of the Serbian and Montenegrin extremist forces. The tankers have a destructive capacity that could wreak environmental havoc in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, not to mention Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Command of the 2nd Army Corps of the Territorial Defense of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina also stated that, having made numerous unanswered appeals for help to the Security Council, and having forewarned, through the Mission, the international community and the Security Council of the current situation, places all responsibility upon the international community and the Security Council for any environmental and biological catastrophe that may occur.

The Mission wishes to inform the Security Council that representatives of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo and in New York have attempted to convince Tuzla authorities to resist such actions, but regretfully, have had no success.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative